

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of playing a poker game, comprising ~~including the steps of:~~
 - dealing hands to players;
 - during one or more betting rounds, requiring each player to check, call, raise or fold within a predetermined time;
 - for each player, indicating incremental elapsing of at least a portion of the predetermined time;
 - if a player does not check, call, raise or fold within the predetermined time:
 - holding the player to a check if no bet exists in the betting round; or
 - declaring the player's hand dead if a bet exists in the betting round; and
 - after all betting rounds are completed, determining betting by ranking remaining hands;
 - wherein the predetermined time is less than 60 seconds.

2. (Previously presented) The method of playing a poker game according to claim 1, wherein the poker game is Texas Hold'em that includes four betting rounds per hand of play.

3. (Previously presented) The method of playing a poker game according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time is up to or around 15 seconds and the elapsing of the last 10 seconds are indicated in increments of seconds.

4. (Currently amended) The method of playing a poker game according to any one of claims ~~1 to 3~~ 1-3, wherein incremental elapsing of at least a portion of the predetermined time for individual players is indicated by a warning, said warning including at least one of an audible and visual alert.

5. (Previously presented) The method of playing a poker game according to claim 4, wherein said warning is audible counting.

6. (Previously presented) The method of playing a poker game according to claim 4, wherein said warning is a visual alert including a plurality of lights, wherein each of said lights corresponds to a time increment.

7. (Previously presented) The method of playing a poker game according to claim 6, wherein the lights are red LEDs.

8. (Currently amended) The method of playing a poker game according to either one of claims 6 ~~and or~~ 7, wherein said lights are arranged to form a pathway associated with ~~each said~~ an individual player.

9. (Currently amended) The method of playing a poker game according to any one of claims ~~1 to 8 1-3 or 5-7~~, including the further steps of comprising:
applying a betting limit pre-flop, said betting limit corresponding to a predetermined pot limit; and
removing said betting limit post-flop.

10. (Previously presented) A playing area for a poker game including:
at least one dealer station, a plurality of player stations and a corresponding plurality of pathways, each pathway extending from a central portion of the playing area towards a player station;
wherein each pathway includes a plurality of consecutive elements that individually indicate incremental elapsing of at least a portion of a predetermined time in which each player is required to check, call, raise or fold during one or more betting rounds of the poker game;
wherein said predetermined time is less than 60 seconds.

11. (Previously presented) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 10, wherein the poker game is Texas Hold'em.

12. (Currently amended) A playing area for a poker game according to either one of claims 10 ~~and or~~ 11, further including a clock for determining the predetermined time.

13. (Currently amended) A playing area for a poker game according to any one claims 10 to ~~12 or 11~~, wherein the playing area is included in a gaming table.

14. (Currently amended) A playing area for a poker game according to any one claims 10 to ~~13 or 11~~, wherein the playing area is represented in a video format for a video representation of a poker game.

15. (Previously presented) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 14, wherein the video format is displayed in a video broadcast.

16. (Previously presented) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 14, wherein the video format is displayed by a computer or over a network of computers.

Claims 17 and 18 (Cancelled).